GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1515
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
MID-DAY-MEAL AND LITERACY SCHEMES
SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mid Day Meal and Literacy Schemes have been a failure;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the State-wise funds allocated under these schemes during the last three years and the funds utilized by the various State Governments, scheme-wise;

(d) whether the funds/food grains allocated under the schemes have remained under- utilized or have no takers; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b) As per the Census 2001 (provisional reports) there has been a significant increase in the literacy rate which stand at 65.38% in 2001. For the first time there is a decline in absolute number of non-literates which has reduced from 328 million in 1991 to 296 million in 2001.

In so far as Mid Day Meal Scheme is concerned, the programme was evaluated by Operation Research Group,an external agency with the support of Unicef. The report concludes that, of the 10 States covered for the study, there is a boost to enrolment in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal while in other 6 States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Orissa and Rajasthan the programme has made positive impact on attendance and retention.

(c),(d) & (e): No funds are allocated to States/UTs under these schemes. For the literacy programmes, grants are released to implementing agencies such as Zila Saksharta Samities and Non-Governmental Organisations for vocational trainingetc. Under the Mid-Day Meal Schemefood grains are allocated on the basis of enrolment data received from States/UTs and Food Corporation of India supplies it to the implementing agencies, the cost of which are reimbursed by the Central Government at BPL rate. Similarly, transportation charges are also reimbursed to the implementing agencies on the basis of actual charges up to a maximum of Rs. 50/- per quintal.

During 2000-01, against an allocation of 2480692 MTs of food-grains, 1517816 MTs were lifted by the implementing agencies, which is about 61.18% of the allocation. Lifting of food-grains has been poor in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya and Punjab. The Central Government has takenup the matter with these States to improve the position and ensure effective implementation of the Scheme.